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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/854,844	
	Filing Date	May 14, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Hu, Yi	
	Group Art Unit	1652	
	Examiner Name	Ramirez, Delia M.	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	16	Attorney Docket Number	LEX-0176-USA

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Lexicon Genetics Incorporated	
	Lance K. Ishimoto Reg. No. 41.866	
Signature	Lance K. Ishimoto by David W. Hsueh	24231
Date	March 1, 2002	PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Hu *et al.* Group Art Unit: 1652
Application No.: 09/854,844 Examiner: D. Ramirez
Filed: 05/14/2001 Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0176-USA
Title: Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides
Encoding the Same



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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED DECEMBER 3, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on December 3, 2001 (Paper No. 7), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in Paper No. 7 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

The response is due on March 3, 2002, which falls on a Sunday. The period for response is therefore extended until Monday, March 4, 2002 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend the claims so that the text of the amended claim reads as follows:

- a¹
1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 24 contiguous bases of nucleotide sequence from SEQ ID NO:1.